Death of Pilots of Surya Kiran Team

3378. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IAF's acrobatic team "Surya Kiran" lost its two senior pilots in a crash near Karnataka on 18th March, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been instituted to find the causes of accident of Indigenously built MK II trainer aircraft;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The pilots were carrying out a 3 aircraft formation aerobatic practice mission. During one of the manoeuvres, the pilots lost control of the aircraft and it crashed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The cause of accident has been established as human error (aircrew).

(e) Does not arise.

Encroachment of land by Nepalese citizens

3379. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large portion of lands within Indian territory in the west Champaran and the adjacent areas in eastern Uttar Pradesh, in particular, along the Indo-Nepal border have been growingly encroached upon by citizens of Nepal who are unauthorisedly occupying these lands and residing therein breaching the territorial integrity of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of action taken contemplated, if any, for freeing our lands from encroachers and restoration of the country's territorial integrity?